

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A system for conducting an Internet search service comprising:
a personal directory for recording Web units or Web pages visited;
a personal search agent for conducting a further search;
an in-site search engine tool kit.
2. The system of claim 1 further including software means which automatically updates said personal directory to reflect changes in Web units and in directory structure and for informing Web users of the changes immediately.
3. The system of claim 1 further including software means to analyze individual's search pattern and give Web users search improvement suggestions and recommend new Web units/sites based on the analysis.
4. The system of claim 1 further including a user feedback form for users to rate the Web units under certain quality criteria, to report any erroneous Web unit submission, and to suggest improvement on search quality.

5. The system of claim 4 further including means to transmit said feedback forms to Web unit builders or Webmasters.

6. The system of claim 1 further including a Web unit to post any unsolved search query for the Internet community to provide a solution.

7. The system of claim 1 further including means to allow communication between said search agent and said personal directory wherein said search agent can carry search requests to the Web units in the said personal directory to initiate said in-site search engine tool kit for a more specific search or act as a Web robot to search a Web unit following the navigation structure built into the Web unit.

8. The system of claim 1 further including a software means to let said in-site search engine tool kit perform communication with said personal search agent regarding Web users' search needs.

9. The system of claim 1 further including an authoring tool for Web unit builders or Webmasters to create metadata for in-site search.

10. A system for inputting data into an Internet search service system comprising:

a search service provider server for guiding Web unit builders or Webmasters through an input process;

a downloadable software means containing forms for self-submission by a Web unit builder or Webmaster.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein said software means includes:

an electronic index form for Web unit builders or Webmasters to fill in the necessary items to describe the content in their Web units;

an electronic multi-directory entry form for Web unit builders or Webmasters to locate the branches and nodes for their Web units;

12. The system of claim 11 wherein said software means includes means for generating a standard data format from entries in said electronic index and said electronic multi-directory and transmitting the data back to said search service provider server.

13. The system of claim 11 wherein said software means further includes an electronic form for letting Web unit builders or Webmasters suggest new branches and nodes in multi-directory structure.

14. The system of claim 11 wherein said software includes a tutorial explaining the Web unit concept.

15. The system of claim 11 wherein said software includes means for reminding Web unit builders or Webmasters to submit the new information immediately.

16. The system of claim 11 wherein said server includes means for detecting any update or change in registered Web sites.

17. A system for organizing data into a search service provider server comprising:

a database to store Web unit indices and other search related information;

a multi-directory data structure to host categorized Web unit entries according to a subject classification scheme; and

a software means to process input information from Web unit builders or Webmasters.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein said software means includes means for detecting errors in input from Web unit builders or Webmasters.

19. The system of claim 17 further including an e-mail means for sending feedback to Web unit builders or Webmasters regarding errors in their input.

20. The system of claim 17 further including a sorting means for automatically transforming input data to said database or said multi-directory structure.

21. A method for facilitating an Internet search comprising:
providing a personal directory for recording Web units or
Web pages visited;
providing a personal search agent for conducting a
further search;
providing an in-site search engine tool kit.

22. The method of claim 21 further including providing means to
automatically update the personal directory to reflect changes in
Web units and in directory structure and for informing Web users of
the changes immediately.

23. The method of claim 21 further including providing a software
means to analyze individual's search pattern and give Web users
search improvement suggestions and recommend new Web units/sites
based on the analysis.

24. The method of claim 21 further including providing a user
feedback form for users to rate the Web units under certain quality
criteria, to report any erroneous Web unit submission, and to
suggest improvement on search quality.

25. The method of claim 24 further providing including means to
transmit the feedback forms to Web unit builders or Webmasters.

26. The method of claim 21 further providing including a Web unit to post any unsolved search query for the Internet community to provide a solution.

27. The method of claim 21 further providing a means to facilitate communication between the search agent and the personal directory, wherein the search agent can carry search requests to the Web units in the personal directory to initiate the in-site search engine tool kit for a more specific search or act as a Web robot to search a Web unit following the navigation structure built into the Web unit.

28. The method of claim 21 further providing a software means to let the in-site search engine tool kit perform communication with the personal search agent regarding Web users' search needs.

29. The method of claim 21 further providing an authoring tool for Web unit builders or Webmasters to create metadata for in-site search.